

WEATHER FORECAST.

Mostly cloudy and continued cold to-day;
to-morrow fair with rising temperature.
Highest temperature yesterday, 40; lowest, 26.
Detailed weather reports will be found on Editorial page.

VOL. LXXXVII.—NO. 121.—DAILY.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1922.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER
POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

PRICE TWO CENTS

THREE CENTS
WITHIN 200 MILES
FOUR CENTS ELSEWHERECONFESSIONS BY TWO
REPORTED TO NAME
45 OF HOODED MOB

Documents Said to Be in
Hands of Louisiana
State Authorities.

SIGNERS ARE GUARDED

Arrests Believed Probable
Before Open Hearing
Next Month.

FRIENDS HELP M'KOLN

Raise Fund for Defense of For-
mer Mayor Charged With
Murder.

BASTROP, La., Dec. 28 (Associated Press).—Forty-five persons were implicated in the Morehouse kidnaping and murders of last August, according to two confessions reported to-day as having been turned over by the Department of Justice to State authorities at New Orleans. The authorities would neither deny nor affirm the report.

It was believed the confessions will not be made public until the open hearings begin at Bastrop next month. It was said the signers of the confessions have been granted immunity by the State and are being guarded with other witnesses until they are wanted to testify. It is thought probable the men named will be arrested before the open hearing begins. The suspects are reported under constant surveillance of secret service men.

At New Orleans today Gov. Parker, Attorney-General Cocco, his assistants and four Department of Justice men were in conference mapping the course of investigations into the deaths of Walter Rober and Thomas Richards, victims of a robed, masked mob. Developments at the morning session were not made public.

Friends of Dr. B. M. McKolin, former mayor of Mer Rouge, under arrest at Bastrop on a charge of murder in connection with the case, are raising a fund in this and adjoining parishes to defend the physician. A deputy sheriff with a warrant for McKolin was on his way to Bastrop.

SAYS VICTIMS OF MOB
WERE BADLY TORTURED

Undertaker's Assistant Found
Almost All Bones Broken.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
MONROE, La., Dec. 28.—Watt Daniels and Thomas P. Richards were subjected to indescribable tortures when they were kidnaped from Mer Rouge last August, in the opinion of P. S. Mulhern, assistant undertaker at the Peters Undertaking Company of Monroe, who helped to prepare the bodies of Daniels and Richards for burial.

Mr. Mulhern said the bodies had been identified, despite statements to the contrary. "The heads of both men were missing when I dragged the bodies out of the lake with a sheet used as a seine," he said. Mr. Mulhern said almost all the bones in both bodies were broken, hands and feet were missing and the bodies apparently had been hacked. He said there were compound fractures of the arms, legs and hips.

M'KOLN MAY ASK U. S.
HABEAS CORPUS WRIT

Plans Plea to Block Return to
Louisiana.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 28.—Robert R. Carr, counsel for Dr. B. M. McKolin, former mayor of Mer Rouge, La., declared to-day he would appeal to Judge John C. Rose of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals for a writ of habeas corpus, should Gov. Ritchie of this State refuse the request of Gov. Parker of Louisiana for the return of the prisoner to that State.

Dr. McKolin, held here for the murder of Walter Rober and Thomas Richards in Louisiana, was denied immediate release to-day on a similar writ obtained in City Court yesterday. Three judges heard arguments on the writ, the first in local court history that three judges ever sat in such proceedings.

Assistant State's Attorney G. L. Clark read a telegram in court from Gov. Parker of Louisiana, delaying the hearing pending arrival of extradition papers. It is believed the court's decision was influenced by the reading of the message. Chief Justice James V. McPherson, in announcing the decision, said: "We find that the charge is of such serious character that we believe the prisoner should be held until the authorities of Louisiana have an opportunity to present the proper papers. The prisoner is remanded to the police without prejudice."

A deputy sheriff of Morehouse parish, La., bringing affidavits and the extradition papers is expected here to-morrow. Dr. Hugh Young, with whom Dr. McKolin has been associated at the Brady Institute of the Johns Hopkins Medical School since his arrival here last October, telegraphed Gov. Parker and Attorney-General Cocco of Louisiana, asserting the doctor's innocence.

FLORIDA-PENN. ATLANTIC COAST LINE offers choice of 5 thru trains on convenient schedule. Exports arranged every detail at 200, 1216 Broadway. Tel. Longview 6863—Ado.

Traffic Court Cases
Reach 50,000 in Year

THE fifty thousandth traffic court case of the year came up yesterday morning before Magistrate W. Bruce Cobb. The defendant, Saul Pimsmith of 131 Suffolk street, was charged with failing to keep to the right at First avenue and Sixth-fifth street Sunday. He explained that his chauffeur was ill and he was driving his car for the first time, although he had a driver's license. Sentence was suspended.

The 1922 list of traffic violations is longer by about 4,500 than the list for the corresponding period of 1921.

NEGRO, 19, CONFESSES
STRANGLING WOMAN

Played at Christmas Tree With
Victim's Four Children
After Murder.

INDICTED IN 11 MINUTES

Swift Jersey Justice Sets Trial
for Thursday as Criminal
Record is Shown.

It was the patent fastener of a gray kid glove, and the story told by a little girl, that drew from William E. Battles, a nineteen-year-old negro, a confession that he had strangled Mrs. Charles F. Brigham Wednesday afternoon and hidden her body in a closet in the cellar of her home at 266 Fuller terrace, Orange, N. J. He denied, however, that he had attacked her.

John O. Bigelow, County Prosecutor of Essex county, had already arranged with Judge Fred G. Stickel to present the case to the Grand Jury as soon as the case had been completed against the negro. One hour after the confession had been signed in the headquarters of the Orange police the grand jurors had the case, and after eleven minutes handed down an indictment charging the negro with first degree murder. Judge Stickel announced that Battles would be arraigned in Newark this morning at 10 o'clock to plead, and next Thursday has been set for the trial.

Battles' father, James H. Battles, who lived with his son at 560 Madison street, Orange, is still under arrest as a material witness, although it is believed the police have no evidence against him or his case would have also been presented to the Grand Jury. Both the father and the son have criminal records, according to the New Jersey authorities, the elder negro having been arrested in 1917 for robbing a woman. He was sent to prison for twenty years, but was paroled about a year ago. His victim was insured for a long time, but even after the confession he had been arrested three times since 1913 for robbery and attempted robbery.

The police arrested the younger Battles because he admitted the seven-year-old daughter told them that he had been working about the house. "I missed my mother and I asked the man where she was," said Virginia. "He told me she had gone to a store to buy some bread, but when she did not come back for a long time, I telephoned my papa and told him my mother was gone and that he and Robert and Margaret wanted her to come home."

"The little girl's mother lay jammed in the closet during the time she was talking to the young negro. And she not only talked to him, she sat on the floor and showed him the collar, which had been found in the closet of the Christmas tree that each of the three children, ill with measles, had by his and her bed.

The fastener on the gray gloves was found by the detective not far from the body of the dead woman, about the same time that they found finger prints on the door of the closet. For four hours after the confession was made, the police searched the house and found the body of the dead woman in the closet. Then the police started up the stairs and into the room where Virginia sat playing with her presents.

The police learned from Mr. Brigham that Battles and his father had been employed at the Brigham house the elder as furnace man and the son as general laborer. They had been working there for several months and had been paid for their work. The Brigham family knew that he was on probation for robbery and they did not know that the elder negro had been arrested in 1917 for robbing a woman similar to the one of Wednesday.

The Brigham family came to Orange about six months ago from City, Pa. Mr. Brigham is general sales manager of the Charles B. Debevoise Braeserie Manufacturing Company of New York City.

Financial Review of 1922 in The New York Herald Wednesday, January 3, will contain excellent material for forecasting trade and business trends in 1923. Receive a copy from your broker or advertiser—Ado.

ONCE TWO-DAY COAL
SUPPLY AS THE CITY
FACES STORM TIEUP

Woodin Includes All Anthracite
Substitutes in
His Estimate.

RESERVE CUT IN HALF

Depleted in the Thirty Days
Since Hyman Proclaimed
Fuel Emergency.

SOFT COAL PRICES SOAR

Administration Predicts Run-
away Bituminous Market
if Storm Develops.

Confronted by storm conditions
which may seriously impede rail de-
liveries and local distribution, New
York city has available at tidewater
terminals for the domestic fuel mar-
ket a scant two days' supply of coal,
including bituminous and other sub-
stitutes for domestic anthracite sizes.

That conclusion is reached from figures compiled in the office of William H. Woodin, State Fuel Administrator, 165 Broadway. This total available domestic supply, which does not include fuel contracted for by city departments or public utilities corporations, aggregates 61,500 tons, of which about 25,000 tons is the present daily shipment of domestic soft coal and the remaining 21,500 tons is bituminous of the better grades, such as is prescribed along with soft coal for use in combination with domestic anthracite. As there is virtually no coke to be had for domestic use at any price the factors enumerated cover the entire reserve outside of such scant supplies as are in dealers' yards.

This means that within thirty days, since Mayor Hyman regarded a four days' supply as so menacing a situation as to warrant a proclamation on his part, there has been a depletion of the reserve amounting to 50 per cent.

Soft Coal Jumps \$1.50 a Ton.

Until a week or two ago there was a surplus of bituminous coal. Since the order making obligatory the use of substitutes for domestic anthracite the increased demand for soft coal has been acute. Harry T. Peters, Assistant State Fuel Administrator, expressed the opinion yesterday that 15,000 tons represents a maximum of the needed bituminous now at New York port terminals.

Soft coal prices at the mines already going up with leaps and bounds. Within a few days "smokeless lump" at Chicago has jumped from \$5.50 to \$7 a ton. "If the present storm develops," the Fuel Administration predicted, "it will cause a runaway market for soft coal."

As a silver lining to this cloudy outlook it was pointed out storm conditions sometimes help New York by diverting to this city shipments intended for more distant ports. For example, the last week a ship from the Great Lakes, carrying a cargo of soft coal, was diverted to New York by storm conditions. Mr. Woodin conferred with J. M. Loneragan, who is cooperating with him as a representative of the Health Department, and also with leaders Berger, director of the Greater New York Taxpayers Association, which has a membership of 5,000, composed largely of landlords. Mr. Berger complained that many members were being unfairly prosecuted for failing to keep heat and hot water when they had striven valiantly to obtain coal. It was agreed that Mr. Berger should check up genuine cases of distress in his association and report them through Mr. Woodin to the Health Department. It was found that many landlords had defeated their own interests by attempting to duplicate orders with different dealers.

Drummond Fight in Court.

An order signed by Supreme Court Justice Gannon in Brooklyn directed that Dr. William Drummond, District Deputy Administrator for Brooklyn and Queens, to show cause to-day in the Brooklyn Supreme Court why he should not be ordered to comply with the law relating to a coal emergency. The order was obtained by Daniel J. Sweeney, president of the Allied Civic Coal Committee of Brooklyn, which is making a fight against the present situation.

The board of deacons voted unanimously to cast out Dr. Drummond, who virtually had dared Dr. Straton to meet the issue. The explosion took the form of the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the resolution of June 26, 1918, and June 29, 1921, recognizing the Rev. Oscar Haywood, D. D., as an evangelist or general evangelist of Calvary Baptist Church be hereby rescinded and his name be omitted from the church calendar so long as Dr. Haywood is employed in work incompatible with his position as an evangelist of this church."

"The passage of this resolution unanimously," said Dr. Straton last night "both by the board of deacons and Calvary Church in regular business session is a sufficient answer to Dr. Haywood's unfounded and unfortunate statement that I was afraid to bring the matter to a conference of the church or to make a public statement that I intended to press the matter no further."

Mussolini Thinks Paris
Conference Will Fail

ROME, Dec. 28 (Associated Press).—Premier Mussolini informed his Cabinet today that he would not attend the Conference of Allied Premiers in Paris next week. His decision was interpreted as meaning that he had no confidence that the gathering would reach a satisfactory result. Among the reasons he gave were that no settled policy had been decided upon and that the question of timber deliveries by Germany would create new difficulties between Great Britain and France.

MAN DIES IN STORM
AND SCORE ARE HURT

Blinded by Sleet and Killed by
Truck: Traffic Tied Up;
Trees Uprooted.

LIQUOR SHIPS ASHORE

Crews of Three Boats Gone;
Another Crew Rescued and
Put Under Arrest.

The heavy storm that swept over New York from 11:30 o'clock last Wednesday night until almost midnight last night, accompanied by intermittent flurries of snow, rain and sleet, killed one man, injured more than a score of other persons, delayed railroad and automobile traffic and uprooted trees in many sections of the city. Four ships laden with liquor were washed ashore early yesterday morning by the winds that swept the north Atlantic, and all during yesterday they were being pounded to pieces by the heavy seas.

The storm began with a rainfall Wednesday night and grew in intensity during the night and yesterday. The rain changed to snow and sleet at 8 o'clock yesterday morning, and thereafter until almost midnight the streets were rapidly coated with ice, which made walking difficult and hampered traffic movements all over the city. About midnight the thermometer began taking a decided drop, and the prediction is for freezing weather this morning and north-easterly winds which will bring a clear sky.

Blinded by Sleet.

Blinded by sleet, Salvatore St. Angelo, 55, of 438 East Thirtieth street, a laborer at the Walker street plant of the New York Telephone Company, was killed when run over by a mail wagon at Lafayette and Walker streets. Charles Logan, a negro, driver of the wagon, was arrested. The accident occurred at the intersection of the elevated railroad shortly before 5 o'clock held up southbound traffic for more than an hour. Sleet on the tracks caused the derailment. Southbound Sixth avenue train made a detour over the Ninth avenue lines between Fifty-ninth street and South Ferry while workmen were getting the derailed train back on the tracks.

Three of the Largest Trees in Central Park were Uprooted.

Two fell across East Drive opposite Eighty-seventh street, and another an hour blocked automobile traffic. The other tree fell across Transverse Road opposite Sixty-fifth street, the roots tearing from the ground a cable of the Edison company. The tree was blown over by the wind. The liner Niagara of the French fleet was the only vessel to arrive in port during the day. She avoided the heaviest winds and arrived at Capt. Bayly, steering a southerly course.

Atlantic freighters of light tonnage experienced difficulties in plying against the waves of whiskey, a believed from Savannah for Bremen, has not been heard from since December 6, when she was reported laboring heavily in heavy seas about 500 miles off Cape May. Her hatches had been badly damaged, according to messages of distress sent out by the craft.

Liquor Vessel Ashore.

The crew of the gasoline cruiser Fox, carrying 200 cases of whiskey, is believed to have been lost when that vessel ran ashore off Sandy Hook and was burned to the water's edge. Coast Guard search parties were unable to find the vessel. The British auxiliary schooner Madonna V., with a cargo of 4,000 cases of Bahama whiskey, valued at \$400,000, was swept ashore near from United States Coast Guard Station 47 and nine miles off Montauk Point. Late last night she was beaten to pieces by the waves. The crew of eight were rescued by the cutter.

Continued on Page Nine.

FINAL BRITISH OFFER
TO FRANCE BASED ON
CUT IN REPARATIONS

Plans Include Fixing Total
at 2,000,000,000 Pounds
and Moratorium.

THREATENS ISOLATION

Will Try No Further for
Accord With Poincare if
Paris Conference Fails.

PESSIMISM SPREADING

Reports From Berlin Indicate
Cuno Is Preparing Unsatis-
factory Proposal.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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New York Herald Bureau,
London, Dec. 28.

Prime Minister Bonar Law will make one more effort to attain unity with Premier Poincare, despite the news that the French Government is determined to press for either sanctions or productive guarantees, regardless of what the other Allies want. No word has been received here from Washington, and officials are at a loss to explain Senator Lodge's preferences to President Harding, sounding out European Governments on the possibility of an economic conference. If a final settlement of the reparations question is not reached in the Paris conference, however, there are new indications here that Mr. Bonar Law will go further than America in seeking isolation from European entanglements.

Cabinet to Pass on Plans.

The Prime Minister will submit his plans for the Paris conference to the Cabinet to-morrow, Stanley Baldwin, Chancellor of the Exchequer, already has approved them, and Lord Curzon, Foreign Secretary, is expected to do so to-night or to-morrow, a copy of Bonar Law's program having been sent him in Lausanne. The Prime Minister will admit there have been German efforts to make the Versailles treaty, but will blame them on essential conditions in Germany. He will then propose that no sanction be imposed until Germany is given a chance to recover. He also will insist that the French Government must insist that they will cost more than they will produce.

The constructive side of the program probably is based upon proposals to reduce the reparations to 2,000,000,000 francs in the neighborhood of 2,000,000,000, which M. Poincare already has indicated he would accept, under certain conditions. Mr. Bonar Law then will suggest a moratorium. With this suggestion, which is a proposal that the Germans, during a reasonable time, give no evidence of their intention to fulfill the treaty in good faith, he will not propose any steps France wants to take.

It was definitely reported to-day that Sir John Bradbury has resigned as British member of the Reparations Commission. He is returning to Paris Saturday to Mr. Bonar Law.

The two held a long conference yesterday, and it is understood the British will make an effort to keep the discussion off the minutiae of war reparations and upon broad general lines. Mr. Bonar Law will make it plain that he blames Germany for petty evasions and is becoming tired of dilatory tactics.

Cuno Plan Disturbs London.

Official quarters were disturbed to-day at the idea that Chancellor Cuno of Germany is to submit another wholly inadequate plan just before the conference resumes. Reports from Berlin that the plan suggests a total of only 2,000,000,000 francs for reparations are derided here. "If they do that, it will be but another instance of German stupidity, giving France every provocation she needs," said a British official.

Then Dr. Hagwood said: "Two millions were once offered by the Germans. Now France is willing to accept them. Anything less would merely confirm the French opinion that the only way to make Germany pay is to take her by the throat."

It is recognized here that an essential difference still remains between British and French points of view regarding reparations. Hence there is some sympathy with the reported determination of both Premiers Mussolini and Thurny not to go to Paris. Mr. Bonar Law, however, is determined to go, and he is confident already has been delivered to M. Poincare, to come near to a settlement of the reparations question. The British and the Italians there, in subsequently admitting the Germans, to whom all plans would be submitted. Only Mr. Bonar Law discuss abandonment of the Balfour note. It is at this juncture that Downing street believes American intervention might be useful, and not before.

WOMAN GETS FATAL
BURNS AT FURNACE

In the absence of the houseman, Miss Edith Brautigan of 119 South Fullerton avenue, Montclair, went to the basement of her home yesterday to see about the fire in the furnace. The strings of her apron were ignited by the fire box and she received burns that resulted in her death at the Mountsinclair Hospital.

Miss Brautigan was born in Montclair and was a member of the Homeopathic Society and Unitarian Church. She leaves a brother, William Brautigan.

HARDING SAYS PARLEY PLAN
WOULD HALT AID TO EUROPE;
BORAH ADMITS HIS DEFEAT

THE REPARATIONS PROBLEM:
SITUATION HERE AND ABROAD

THERE were these developments yesterday in the general international situation:

President Harding declared the Borah conference plan would hamper the State Department's negotiations for the relief of Europe. Mr. Harding said that Congress could help the situation by removing restrictions on the Executive regarding re-funding operations and representation on the Reparations Commission.

Julius H. Barnes, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, made public its correspondence with a similar German business organization on the efforts to help adjust the reparations problem. The American chamber took the position that action should await the Premiers' conference on January 2.

Premier Bonar Law of Great Britain prepared his plan for a reparations settlement at Paris next week, said to include fixing the total at £2,000,000,000 and a moratorium. If he fails to reach an accord with France it is believed he will inaugurate a policy of isolation.

Premier Mussolini of Italy announced he would not attend the Paris conference of Premiers because of lack of confidence in results.

German industrialists and Chancellor Cuno are deadlocked on the proposals for a reparations settlement.

France is preparing to seize German forests as a penalty for the default in wood deliveries. It will insist on seizures being the first subject before the Premiers' conference.

BRITISH RUSH SHIPS
TO CONSTANTINOPLE

Fleet Ordered From Malta in
View of Probable Break
Up of Parley.

AMERICA WARNS TURKEY

Ambassador Child Denies
Capitulations Impair Sover-
eignty of Nation.

Says Financial Decision Should
Be Reached by Countries
Mutually Interested.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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New York Herald Bureau,
London, Dec. 28.

The rushing of British battleships from Malta to Constantinople as the result of advice from Lausanne would indicate that the conference can hardly last another week. An order was sent from London to Admiral de Robeck, commander in chief of the Mediterranean fleet, and some of the battleships to start for the straits within twelve hours.

No results have yet been obtained in sounding out the French army and navy staffs as to what they will do if the conference breaks up. It is considered likely, however, that the French will not answer until they see how far the British are prepared to back them in carrying out their sanctions against Germany. The British military strength in the Near East has not been impaired and if the Turks break off the negotiations they will have to face the same line of troops and ships which they faced when they agreed to a conference.

The presence of British ships in the straits is a factor which will be local uprisings as well as incursions from the Asiatic shore if the conference breaks up.

MALTA, Dec. 28 (Associated Press).—The ships of the British Mediterranean fleet which arrived here on December 23 for a three weeks' visit have received orders to return to the Near East. The dreadnoughts Iron Duke, Marlborough and Ajax, the light cruiser Concord and all the destroyers were to sail within a few hours. The sailing orders were entirely unexpected, the officers having made engagements here up to the middle of January.

LAUSANNE, Dec. 28 (Associated Press).—Premier Law has failed to persuade the United States and the European Powers that Turkish laws and Turkish courts afford adequate protection to the life and property of foreigners residing in Turkey, and the Near East conference stands in grave danger of breaking up.

Ambassador Child, speaking for the United States to-day, declared that capitulations do not impair Turkey's sovereignty and warns that she will align herself with other nations which have repudiated their obligations if she rejects the capitulations and does not grant something in return, as a guarantee of treaty privileges.

Europe and America insist that special courts, upon which foreign judges sit, must administer justice to foreigners in the Near East. The German and Italian delegates, however, insist that such courts would be an infringement on Turkish sovereignty. When he reiterated this declaration so often at today's stormy meeting of the Commission on Capitulations, Lord Curzon retorted:

"I beg that I must Turk wrap up and place carefully away in a cupboard this question of Turkish sovereignty, which nobody wishes in the least to offend. Turkey is not the only country which enjoys sovereignty; many other Powers have it, and frequently greater Powers than Turkey. I submit that the international community without fear of impairing their sovereignty, may later provide as a possible settlement of this question which lies at the root of all financial and commercial disorder in Europe, will appoint a commission of outstanding character, ability and impartiality to express thus an American opinion on this question."

As the German Industrie und Handelstag only desire a completely fair expression, they agree in advance to the propriety of the principle to be accepted and exercised by Germany in good faith, that the amount and methods suggested shall be a recognition that Germany shall make restitution to the utmost of its ability, without involving the destruction of its earning and producing power, and holding forth some reason for its position.

The plain truth is Turkish laws and Turkish courts were the equal of any in Europe, but Lord Curzon said:

Continued on Page Two.

FREE HAND NEEDED

President Declares Con-
gress Can Help by Re-
moving Restrictions
on Executive.

HE WRITES TO LODGE

Asserts Congressional Ac-
tion Would Give False
Impression Abroad.

FUTILITY OF PROPOSAL

Removal of Limit on Refund-
ing Operations Asked—Sen-
ate Debate Continues.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.

President Harding to-day stated his reasons for opposing the Borah amendment requesting him to call an international economic conference, in a terse letter to Senator Lodge (Mass.), majority leader, which was read in the Senate, and immediately became the subject of a lively debate on the nature of the negotiations which this Government is conducting in regard to the European financial problem.

Not only is the Borah proposal likely to create the false impression at home and abroad that the President and Secretary of State are not alive to the serious situation in Europe, but it would be futile, according to the President, to suggest such a conference until it is ascertained whether it will be welcome by the nations involved. He said the State Department has information on this subject which cannot be withheld every day, but which is available to Senators and Representatives in conference.

Replies to Senator Lodge.

Following is the text of the letter: "My Dear Senator Lodge: Replying to your inquiry relative to the proposed amendment to the pending naval bill, authorizing and requesting the President to call an economic conference to deal with conditions in the war torn nations of Europe, I write to say that I know of no prohibition against such an expression on the part of the President, but I do frankly question the desirability of such an expression. I think it is undesirable because of the false impressions which may be conveyed thereby to Europe, and even more undesirable because of the wrong impression it conveys to our own people.

On the face of things, it is equivalent to saying that the executive branch of the Government, which is charged with the conduct of foreign relations, is not fully alive to a world situation which is of deep concern to the United States. As a matter of fact, the European situation has been given most thorough and thoughtful consideration for many months.

Without questioning the good faith of the proposal, I am very sure it would have been more seriously and the action of the Congress could be taken much more intelligently if proper inquiry had been made of the State Department relative to the situation in which we are trying to be helpful.

Of necessity the communications of the State Department relative to delicate matters among nations cannot be withheld from day to day, but the situation is never withheld from members of Congress who choose to inquire for confidential information in a spirit of cooperation. Such inquiry would have revealed the futility of any conference until it is understood that such a conference would be welcomed by the nations concerned within the limits of discussion which the expressed will of Congress compels this Government to impose.

In ratifying the treaty of peace with Germany, the Senate made a reservation that the United States should not be represented on the Reparations Commission without consent of Congress, and no such consent has been given. Moreover, in creating the world war debt funding commission that body was restricted to explicit terms for rates of interest and ultimate time of payment.

If Congress really means to facilitate the task of the Government in dealing with the European situation, the first practical step would be to free the hands of the commission, that helpful negotiations may be undertaken.

In discussions with foreign Governments the previous Administration and the present Administration have insisted that the question of